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## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable CINDY HYDE-SMITH, a Senator from the State of Mississippi.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Sovereign Lord of the Universe, we pray today for our lawmakers. Use them for Your glory, providing them with wisdom to live with integrity through their labors. Enable them to live, trusting in the unfolding of Your providence. Lord, inspire our Senators to glorify You, doing justly, loving mercy, and walking humbly on the path You have chosen. Keep them in the circle of Your unfolding providence. May they find delight in doing Your will as You remove from their lives the barriers of fear, hatred, and strife. Help them to seek more fully to resemble the Prince of Peace.

We pray in Your Holy Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, July 31, 2018.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable CINDY HYDE-SMITH, a Senator from the State of Mississippi, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,  
President pro tempore.

Mrs. HYDE-SMITH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I want to take a few moments to discuss the brave men and women who serve in U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

I had the privilege of visiting the ICE office in my hometown of Louisville this past Friday and of meeting with these agents in person.

This is a Federal agency that was created following the attacks of September 11, 2001. It is responsible for several key aspects of our homeland security: enforcing our immigration laws, combating terrorism, and preventing people and goods from moving illegally throughout our country. Its record on these vital missions is staggering. In fiscal year 2017, ICE recorded more than 105,000 arrests of aliens with known criminal convictions on their records—nearly 4,600 convictions for robbery, more than 3,700 for sexual assault, and more than 1,500 for homicide.

We are talking about the men and women in law enforcement who con-

front all of this in order to keep all of us safe. This is hardly a controversial mission; it is essential. We are lucky these agents are willing to serve. The Nation is better off for it. So I wanted to pay these agents a visit in Louisville and thank them firsthand for their work.

Recently, they have fallen into the crosshairs of some extremely vocal, far-left special interest groups, groups that explicitly say—now get this; this is what they say—that our Nation would be better off with no borders and no immigration laws of any kind. That is what these people advocate. They are slandering ICE agents. They are calling the agency “an unaccountable strike force executing a campaign of ethnic cleansing” and even “a genuine threat to democracy.” That is what they are calling ICE agents. According to these leftwing groups, the threat to democracy is not the violent criminals who are illegally present in our country but, rather, the brave law enforcement officers who volunteer to take them on.

Well, fringe political movements are nothing new. You can find a few Americans who will argue almost any side of any issue. What is new—what does get my attention—is when prominent, leading Democratic politicians, including a number of our colleagues right here in the Senate, adopt some of these extremist views wholesale and let the far-left talking points form the basis of their own policy positions.

The junior Senator from New York said recently that if Democrats regain the House and Senate, the first thing they should do is “get rid of ICE.”

The senior Senator from Massachusetts pointed to “replacing ICE” as the first priority of a top-to-bottom rebuild of America’s immigration system.

The mayor of New York City calls the agency “no longer acceptable.”

A Member of the U.S. House of Representatives likened it to—get this—“the Gestapo of the United States.”

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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